



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF
**HOMELAND
SECURITY**
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METRO BOSTON OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Monthly Newsletter

February 2, 2005, Volume 1



ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

FFY2004 Metro Boston Homeland Security Regional Plan

Approved by the Executive Office of Public Safety in early January, the Metro Boston Homeland Security Regional Plan outlines existing and planned homeland security priorities and projected activities throughout the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region during FFY2004 and FFY2005. In order to be truly strategic in supporting the Region's homeland security needs, the Metro Boston Office of Homeland Security applies a project driven, "all funds" approach to all federal homeland security funds. As such the MBHSR Regional Plan reflects activities that will be supported with current and future funds. This plan is a fluid, living document.

The Regional Plan was made available to all Jurisdictional Points of Contact, as well as Discipline Leads, for comment on December 15th.

Information about the Responder Knowledge Base

The Responder Knowledge Base (RKB) contains information on currently available emergency responder products, as well as a wealth of related information such as standards, training, and grants. The RKB can be an especially valuable tool when researching equipment purchases. Registration is required.

Log on at <http://www.rkb.mipt.org/>

Allowable Homeland Security Expenses

In discussions with our partners many have asked where to find detailed information on "allowable expenses" under the grant programs we operate under. Allowable expenses have evolved year to year so allowable expenses depend on what fiscal year of funding we are operating on. The best guidance for current projects are the FFY2004 UASI and HSGP grant guidance. In the not-so-distant future we will be working from the FY 2005 HSGP/UASI guidance.

FFY 2004 UASI: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/fy04uasi.pdf>

FFY 2004 HSGP: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/fy04hsgp_appkit.pdf

FFY2005 HSGP/UASI: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/fy05hsgp.pdf>

Jurisdiction Points of Contact Meetings

JPOC meetings have been scheduled through October. Please mark your calendar! If you can host an upcoming meeting please notify Sara Phillips.

Brookline – February 23, 2005

Host needed – March 30, 2005

Host needed – April 27, 2005

Quincy – May 25, 2005

Host needed – June 29, 2005

Host needed – July 27, 2005

Boston – August 31, 2005

Chelsea – September 28, 2005

Brookline – October 26, 2005

Administration & Finance

MOHS will be sending Inventory Reports to all recipients of equipment funded by FFY2003 UASI and other grants coordinated through this office. Full instructions will be sent with the report, however, please note the following:

- There will be one report for each item type purchased.
- The report will:
 - be run weekly to capture purchase orders processed the previous week. Generally, you will receive the report prior to the equipment and the report will serve as an alert to you that you should be expecting the equipment;
 - be sent to the address where the equipment is being sent;
 - include order information along with other relevant data on the equipment.
 - have a section that you must complete and return as proof of receipt along with the invoice.
- There will be labels attached to the report that must be affixed to the equipment

Full instructions on their responsibilities will be sent out with the first batches of reports.

Training Information

Local Resources

General information concerning training provided by the DelValle Institute of Emergency Preparedness can be accessed at <http://www.bphc.org/delvalle>

Information on the availability of homeland security training sponsored by the State can be accessed at

<http://www.mass.gov/portal/index.jsp?pageID=eopssubtopic&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Funding+%26+Training+Opportunities&L2=Homeland+Security&L3=Training%2fCourses&sid=Eeops>.

Please refer to the Subcommittee updates for specific information on training.

Specific requests for support of training must be made to the Metro Boston Office of Homeland Security. OHS will submit all requests for training to the State/Federal agency on behalf of its regional partners.

PROJECT UPDATES

Operation Atlas

The Region's current major homeland security exercise program - Operation Atlas - is underway. This exercise focuses on an aviation incident over the Atlantic Ocean that forces an aircraft to make an emergency landing at Logan International Airport. Logan is a \$6.6 billion economic engine for New England and one of our Region's most critical infrastructures. A critical element of this program will be ensuring that we build into the scenario how our region would be affected by such an incident. The first major Operation Atlas event, the Exercise Planning Workshop (EPW), brought together over 100 local, state, and federal homeland security stakeholders and was an unqualified success. The EPW helped define the objectives for evaluation during Atlas and also helped identify objectives to be evaluated in future exercises. The OHS will utilize the results of the EPW to come up with a plan for the next year of exercises. These exercises may be discipline- or jurisdiction-specific and may also be interdisciplinary or multi-jurisdictional.

Important Dates

The following are important dates to be aware of for Operation Atlas:

February 17, 2005 - TTX #1 – Intelligence and Information Sharing

March 22, 2005 – TTX #2 – Operational Personnel

March 24, 2005 – TTX #3 – Interoperable Communications

March 28, 2005 – TTX #4 – Health and Medical Response

April 7, 2005 – TTX #5 – Senior Leaders Seminar

May 7, 2005 – FSE – Full-Scale Exercise

Communications Interoperability

The Communications Interoperability Project is underway. The Communications Interoperability Subcommittee is finalizing their charter, goals, and objectives and ensuring that they will be best set up to complete their task quickly and efficiently. The Subcommittee is defining an interoperability assessment to inform the development of a regional interoperability strategic plan. The plan will be comprised of short- and long-term improvements for interoperability in the region. The Subcommittee includes representation from each MBHSR community as well as BAPERN, Metro-Fire, Massport, EOPS, and EMS.

EOC Evaluation/MBHSIC Creation

The OHS is engaging a vendor to evaluate the Region's existing Emergency Operations Centers and recommend enhancements. We will work to enhance the existing EOCs based upon the evaluations and the allowable expenses under the grant funding. The OHS is hoping to network the Region's EOCs together such that each serves to support the others.

OHS is also working to scope the Metro-Boston Homeland Security Integration Center (MBHSIC), a regional homeland security center that will co-locate emergency operations, training, and continuity of government capabilities.

DISCIPLINE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

The EMS Subcommittee has met twice to date, December 7, 2004 and January 5th, 2004. Meeting topics included (1) an introduction and review of the Metro Boston Office of Homeland Security; (2) a review of the FFY2003 UASI Equipment purchases including timelines; (3) the implementation of the Regional Plan deliverables, both short and long term; (4) a discussion of pending memorandums of understanding (MOU) between the MBHSR cities and towns, and their private EMS providers; (5) training standards and existing/desired regional training needs for EMS providers; (6) the role of the DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness; and (7) the EMS Phased Response Plan, of which a sub-committee has been established to discuss further. The

Moving forward the EMS Subcommittee will continue to work on these issues and others as they arise.

Trainings

Currently, the EMS Subcommittee continues to work to complete the trainings supported with FFY2003 UASI funding. Training needs will continue to be a priority moving forward.

Upcoming Meetings

February 9, 2005 – 10am, TBD

February 23, 2005 – 10am, TBD

March 9, 2005 – 10am, TBD

For more information concerning the Regional EMS Subcommittee, please contact Chris Angell at ANGELL@BOSTONEMS.ORG.

FIRE SERVICES/HAZMAT

The Fire Service Subcommittee has been meeting bi-weekly since October. During the past quarter, the Subcommittee has taken steps to move forward with a number of training and equipment initiatives.

The Departments are looking to acquire software that will allow them to track all UASI training and equipment. The software would allow the departments to track equipment that was purchased for regional sharing, and would make it easier for EOPS and ODP to audit. Installation and training is expected to be complete within 60 days after approval (April, 2005).

The Subcommittee has included the participation of Massport representatives, hoping that the 9 UASI jurisdictions and Massport Fire can work and train together as a cohesive unit. We are working to try to resolve funding complexities related to the inclusion of a state agency in training and exercising initiatives.

The group also plans to move forward with plans to develop a regional Urban Search and Rescue team, as structural collapse rescue is an area where the Metro-Region is severely under-prepared.

Trainings

The MBHSR Fire Departments plan to train all 2,700+ uniformed personnel in a) WMD/Radiological Awareness and b) Level A Chemical Protective Clothing (CPC). The WMD course is a 6-hour ODP-approved course to be delivered in-house. The CPC course will be completed after WMD training is done to allow more time for logistics to be ironed as it is a non-ODP approved course.

The WMD course should begin by mid-late March and completed by June of 2005. The CPC course will occur following, after development and approval by EOPS and ODP.

The MBHSR Fire Departments also plan to train 3-5 senior level personnel from each fire department in Incident Command System's (ICS) IMT 3 Training. The group is working to determine if the training will qualify for National Incident Management System's (NIMS) standards. IMT 3 Training is expected to be completed by mid/late March 2005.

Upcoming Meetings

February 16, 2005 – 1PM, Location TBD

March 2, 2005 – 1PM, Location TBD

March 16, 2005 – 1PM, Location TBD

For more information concerning the Regional Fire Service Subcommittee, please contact Mike Colanti at Michael.Colanti@cityofboston.gov.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

With the FFY2004 focus on preparedness and prevention on a regional level, the Law Enforcement Subcommittee has identified appropriate and immediate physical and infrastructural needs for the nine MBHSR communities, as well as targets and assets that necessitate added security measures.

A number of requests have been conditionally granted under the FY2004 State Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) and Boston Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) to the individual jurisdictions, including personal protective equipment, technology for improved communication, and CBRNE support and response equipment. The subcommittee continues to explore the logistics of a regional camera system to be installed along the waterfront to add surveillance capability to the waterways in the region.

OHS has created a new set of clear objectives designed to restructure the subcommittee to increase its efficiency. This includes a comprehensive list of tasks to be completed by the subcommittee and its working groups in the short- and long-term.

Trainings

WMD Protection & Decontamination for Law Enforcement

March 14th – 16th, 2005

April 20th – 22nd, 2005

June 13th – 15th, 2005

Location

Miranda-Creamer Building
35 Northampton Street
Boston, MA

Additional classes will be made available to ensure that all Metro Boston Region's police personnel can be successfully trained.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Law Enforcement Subcommittee meeting will be held at the Revere Police Department, February 2, 2005, at 2 PM.

For more information concerning the Regional Law Enforcement Subcommittee, please contact Adam Wehrenberg at Adam.Wehrenberg@cityofboston.gov.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Currently, the Public Health Subcommittee is working through the FFY2003 UASI equipment procurement issues. The first Subcommittee meeting will take place on .

Trainings

No trainings are scheduled to date.

Upcoming Meetings

TBD

For more information concerning the Regional Public Health Subcommittee, please contact Liam Seward at Liam_Seward@bphc.org.

HEALTH CARE

The Health Care Subcommittee is focusing on two main areas: staffing and equipment needs. Our working group this past week came up with official staffing recommendations for MDUs, and is next going to explore what common equipment needs all the hospitals share and how best to coordinate equipment purchasing to ensure interoperability (some aren't too keen on this).

Those items were discussed at the last full subcommittee meeting on January 5th, and the input from the larger group helped to inform the smaller group's direction. At the next full meeting, we're going to address general strategic goals (from the MBHSR 2004 planning doc) and how those goals should influence our decisions regarding equipment purchases, staff trainings, staffing levels, etc.

Training and Exercises

Weapons of Mass Destruction Protection and Decontamination Training for Health Care Workers – 24 Hour Level B

Will be offered monthly through June by the DelValle Institute. First training will be held on February 7-9th, and will be made available once per month through June.

Upcoming Meetings

February 2nd, 2005 at 3 PM at BUSM

February 9th, 2005 at 3:30 PM

March 16th, 2005 at 2:00 PM

For more information concerning the Regional Health Care Subcommittee, please contact Tim McDonald at tmcdonal@bu.edu.